

# FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

## Photograph



## Locus Map



**Recorded by:** Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson  
community preservation + planning

**Organization:** Hanson Historical Commission

**Date** (*month / year*): June 2018

Assessor's Number    USGS Quad    Area(s)    Form  
Number

104-0-6-0

Hanover

HNS.256

**Town/City:** Hanson

**Place:** (*neighborhood or village*):

**Address:** 316 State Street

**Historic Name:** Robert and Elizabeth  
Ramsdell House

**Uses:** Present: Single-Family  
Residential  
Original: Single-Family Residential

**Date of Construction:** ca. 1845

**Source:** White's History, Plan 5, No. 79, Page  
93

**Style/Form:** Greek Revival

**Architect/Builder:** Unknown

**Exterior Material:**

Foundation: Granite

Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard/Wood

Roof: Asphalt Shingle

**Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:**

None visible from the public way

**Major Alterations** (*with dates*):

Replacement doors, dormer on north façade, one-  
story addition to east facade

**Condition:** Good

**Moved:** no ☒

**yes** ☐ **Date:**

**Acreage:** 0.88 Acres

**Setting:** Located on a winding road through a  
residential neighborhood of medium sized single  
family homes centered on large, open lots which  
are surrounded by dense vegetation and mature  
trees.

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☒ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.*If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

*Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.*

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

The one-and-a-half-story cottage has an L-shaped footprint with a large, projecting gable-end roof running west to east and a lower, narrower cross gable section extending out from the southeast corner of the south facade. A short brick chimney is located to the right of center on the cross gable's roof ridge. The gable-end facades are extensively detailed with projecting roofs that allow for wide bands of wood molding around the eaves and deep soffits. Two levels of flat cornice trim surround the outer edges of the pediment. The lower edge of the pediment is similarly detailed with a thin projecting wood trimmed edge over a two level cornice that wraps the top edge of the building on all of its visible facades. Below the cornice trim, wide corner boards the are topped with narrow projecting capitals with wood clapboard siding on the facades in between. This trim and detailing is seen on a slightly smaller scale on the cross gabled section as well. The window frames have arching headers surrounded by a narrow band of projecting trim that extends around the sides of the windows to the narrow projecting sills. Several of the windows on the west and north façades are also surrounded by working wood shutters, and all of the windows are two-over-two wood windows which may be original to the house.

The house faces west towards the road and has two double hung windows located in the center of its gable-end whose window frames abut the wide trim of the pediment to either side. Two more windows are located on the first floor of the house to the left of the front entrance. The front entrance is located in an inset porch in the southwest corner of the gable-end. The porch has a low wood deck and a single turned post in its southwest corner. The entrance to the west of the porch has a low cement step and a lattice board encloses the south side of the porch. The door and its sidelights are one of the few later additions to the house which are visible from the street. The fiberglass or metal door has two long windows at its top over a paneled lower half. Short, narrow sidelights over long panels of the same material are located to either side of the door. To the right, the west façade of the cross gable also has a long inset porch running from its connection to the main gable-end past the side entrance. The cornice continues across this section, with the wall set back behind an open wood deck. Two double hung windows are located to the right of the door, which is a metal or fiberglass half door. A single narrower double hung window is located in the remaining wall in the right corner of the façade.

On the north façade of the house, heavy vegetation and large bushes largely obscure most of the façade from view. At least one double hung window with shutters is located on the first floor of this façade below a tall hip roofed dormer. The dormer is a later addition to the structure and lacks the detailing found elsewhere on the house. The hip roof begins just below the ridge and projects out slightly behind the wood clapboard facades which have narrow corner boards and a window at the center of the north façade. On the south façade, a single double hung window is located near the center of the gable-end façade. On the cross-gable, a smaller double hung window is surrounded by the elaborate trim in the gable-end and a third window is located on the wall below. Around the southeast corner of the building, a one-story shed-roofed addition is just visible on the east façade.

The house is set close to the street and is surrounded by large evergreen bushes, ornamental trees, and stone enclosed planting beds with a narrow grass lawn in between. An unpaved, semicircular driveway extends along the south façade of the house and in front of the cross-gable with large bushes growing in its center median as

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well. Dense vegetation and trees surround the north side of the house and mature trees are located to its south and east.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

According to White's History of Hanson, 316 State Street was built in 1845 for Robert Ramsdell, who appears as the owner on the 1856 Walling Map of Hanson. Born in Pembroke, Robert Ramsdell (1807-1861) married Elizabeth B. Mann in Pembroke in 1835. Robert worked as a blacksmith according to the 1850 and 1860 U.S. Censuses and lived in the property with Elizabeth, his son Harris, a shoemaker, and two daughters. In 1860, he sold the property to Ezra E. Magoun (1831-1914),<sup>1</sup> who was also a shoemaker and had married Robert's daughter, Adaline W. Ramsdell (1839-1908), in 1854. Ezra was the son of Cornelius and Maria Magoun of Pembroke and the newlywed couple moved into the Ramsdell family home shortly after their marriage, where they are listed as living in the 1855 State Census. By the 1860 U.S. Census, only the Magoun family remained with their three young children and "E. Magoun" is listed as the owner on both the 1879 Walker Atlas and the 1903 Richards Atlas. Ezra worked as a shoemaker throughout his life and was still living on State Street at the time of his death from heart disease in 1914.

After Ezra's death, his estate was broken up into multiple parcels with the house sold to Ezra's son, Chester, and his wife, Alice.<sup>2</sup> Chester C. Magoun (1875-1945) was the fourth of Ezra's five sons and married Alice F. Foster (b.1879), daughter of Virgil and Maggie Foster, in Hanson in 1898. The couple moved into the family home with Ezra and Adaline where Chester is listed as first a grocery store clerk than as a grocert salesman in the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Censuses. The couple officially purchased the house from Ezra's estate in 1917 and White notes Chester as being the owner of the house at that time. By the 1920 U.S. Census, Chester was working at the Tack Factory where he is listed as a superintendent in the 1930 U.S. Census. By 1930, Alice's sister, Helen Dean Foster (1876-1968), had also moved into the house. Helen was a grocery store clerk in the 1930 U.S. Census and later worked as a government employee.

After Chester's death, Alice and Helen continued to live in the house and in 1948, Alice transferred the property into joint ownership with her sister. After Helen's death in 1968, her estate sold the home to George W. and Mary Moe.<sup>3</sup> In 1972, the Moes sold the property to Mark L. and Wendy C. Dorfman, who sold the house a few years later in 1972 to Cynthia Batchelder.<sup>4</sup> Cynthia Batchelder, now Cynthia Hurley, is the current owner of the house along with her husband, Arthur Hurley.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

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Hanson Historical Commission. *History of Town of Hanson*. March 2, 1959. (Typescript) Project of Historical Commission and Board of Selectmen approved by vote of Town Meeting. <https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofh00sn>

<sup>1</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 304, Page 244

<sup>2</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1287, page 324

<sup>3</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3473, Page 212

<sup>4</sup> Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3805, Page 552; Book 4260, Page 188

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### National Register of Historic Places Criteria Statement Form

Check all that apply:

- ☒ Individually eligible ☐ Eligible **only** in a historic district  
☐ Contributing to a potential historic district ☐ Potential historic district

Criteria: ☒ **A** ☐ **B** ☒ **C** ☐ **D**

Criteria Considerations: ☐ **A** ☐ **B** ☐ **C** ☐ **D** ☐ **E** ☐ **F** ☐ **G**

Statement of Significance by Lara Kritzer

*The criteria that are checked in the above sections must be justified here.*

This ca. 1845 Greek Revival style cottage Cape is eligible for individual listing on the National Register under Criteria A for its association with the early development of the town of Hanson. The house is also eligible under Criteria C as it has survived in its original location with both its setting and original architectural character and detailing intact despite nearly two centuries of use. The house embodies the distinctive character of mid-nineteenth century architecture with few later alterations. Additional information on the building's interior will also be needed for the Massachusetts Historical Commission to substantiate its National Register eligibility.